

Gearing up for Super Bowl

Host of events to be held in conjunction with NFL showdown

Compiled by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Football fans can look forward to a host of special activities surrounding the upcoming Super Bowl XXXIX between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles Feb. 6.

Clubs, community centers, golf courses and other venues throughout the 104th Area Support Group will feature parties and more.

In the 221st Base Support Battalion:

McCully Club — Super Bowl Party from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Kitchen will feature full menu. The club is located in Building 6209 of Wackernheim's McCully Barracks. Call civ (06133) 250 8747 for more information.

Cappuccino Casino — Enjoy free munchies during the Super Bowl. The facility opens at 10 a.m. Free giveaways and prizes will be available. The Cappuccino Casino is in Building 7762 at Wiesbaden's Hainerberg Shopping Center. Call civ (0611) 763 7627 for details.

Kastel Klub — Free snacks will be offered. Chili and kraut dogs will be for sale. The game coverage starts at 10 p.m. The Kastel Klub is located in Building 4019 on Mainz-Kastel Storage Station (near the Food Court). Call civ (06134) 604 903.

Victory Point Bar — A tailgate special featuring hamburger or chicken nuggets with fries and a pitcher of beer for \$10 will be held starting at 10 p.m. The bar, located in the Community Activity Center, Building 1011 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, offers viewers five television sets. Wear your team jersey and win a free insulated cooler bag while supplies last. Call civ (0611) 705-5750 for more information.

Rheinblick Golf Course — Watch the game on two big screen televisions. The restaurant and full-service bar will be open and raffles will be held all night. An indoor putting contest begins at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$5 per round. The course is located on Weisserweg in Wiesbaden-Frauenstein. Call civ (0611) 420 675.

Rheinlander Annex — Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will host a Super Bowl Party at the Rheinlander Annex on Dexheim's Anderson Barracks. Doors open at 11 a.m. Non-BOSS members are also welcome. The \$3 charge covers snacks and games. Call civ (06133) 69-712 for details.

In the 222nd BSB:

Rudy's Bar and Grill — A Super Bowl Party will be held starting at 9 p.m. Play games and win prizes. Rudy's is located in Building 9032 on Strassburg Kaserne. Call civ (06781) 411 66.

Shooters — Enjoy a Super Bowl Party with games and



prizes. The event starts at 11 p.m. The kitchen will be open and home delivery available. Shooters is located in Building 8167 on Baumholder's Smith Barracks. Call civ (06783) 6-6345.

In the 284th BSB:

Spare Time Lane and Lounge — The Spare Time Lane and Lounge in Building 3628 on Friedberg's Ray Barracks will hold a Super Bowl Party from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Enjoy a free buffet, sports drink special, raffles and lotteries. Watch the game on several big screen TVs. Participate in the Madden 2005 Playstation Tournament for a chance to win a trip, ticket to a Frankfurt Galaxy football game or other prizes.

In the 414th BSB:

Community Activity Center — Watch the Super Bowl on a giant screen at the Community Activity Center in the International Club on Fliegerhorst Kaserne starting at 9 p.m. Free snacks will be served and a breakfast buffet will be available for purchase courtesy of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

Five Pfennig Playhouse — The Five Pfennig Playhouse on Hanau's Old Argonner Kaserne will feature the Super Bowl on a giant screen. Pre-game starts at 10 p.m. Party starts at 10 p.m. with a buffet (for a fee) and Super Bowl starts at midnight. Breakfast will be available at the Sunrise Grill for a fee. Call civ (06181) 88-8031.

At the Frankfurt-Jahrhunderthalle

The Frankfurt Galaxy host their annual Super Bowl Party, this year at Frankfurt's Jahrhunderthalle. The event will feature a Brazilian dance show, live bands and more. Visit the Frankfurt Galaxy website at www.frankfurt-galaxy.de for more information.



While the National Football League-Europe season doesn't kick off until April 2, football fans can catch NFL action at one of the many Super Bowl bashes throughout the 104th ASG and hosted by the Frankfurt Galaxy Feb. 6.



Photo by Jayme Loppnow

Photo left: Visitors enjoy the colorful spectacle of the Seligenstadt Fasching Parade. This year's will be held Feb. 7. Below: Community members in Giessen can head downtown Feb. 6 to join the Fasching fun.



Photo by Karl Weisel

It's Carnival time in Germany

Enjoy host of parties and parades during Fasching

By Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

German winters can seem to last forever. That may be why some German citizens appear to be losing their grip on normality around this time of year.

Long before the Easter bunny makes his rounds, the citizens of Europe let their fantasies run wild at masquerade balls, parades and other Fasching events. The frenzy reaches a fever pitch in the final days before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. For some it is the last chance to indulge in excessive food, drink and merriment before 40 days of spiritual and physical fasting leading up to Easter.

In the days before Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9, it is not uncommon to witness women slicing off their male coworkers' neckties (on Altweiber Fastnacht, Feb. 3), children demanding a "Fasching Zoll" (Fasching tax) for safe passage through their neighborhoods or oddly garbed individuals in the most unlikely of customer service jobs. Don't be surprised if you are served by a bank teller wearing a large rubber ball nose or driven by a public bus driver wearing an ape mask.

Fasching is a time to let go — and many people do so with a vengeance. During the annual outbreak of silliness known as Fasching (or Fassenacht), costume parties, satirical banquets, parades and a host of other special events are common.

Although officially under way since Nov. 11 of the year before, Fasching revelers don't reach their full stride until just before Lent. Some people take "Die Drei Tolle Tagen" (the three crazy days before Ash Wednesday) so seriously as to take leave from work. In some areas Rose Monday (Feb. 11) and the afternoon of Shrove Tuesday (the following day) are holidays for employees.



Photo courtesy of the 414 BSB Public Affairs Office
Members of a Büdingen Fasching group take 1-1st Cavalry leaders hostage during the traditional storming of Armstrong Barracks, which this year takes place on Feb. 5 at 11 a.m.

The holiday sprang from both Christian and pagan traditions. The celebration of Fasching made its way into Germany sometime around the second century, when Roman legionnaires settled in different areas of the country. Having begun as three days of feasting before Lent, it grew into weeks of excessive partying.

In pre-Christian times people celebrated the occasion with masks and noisemakers to scare away the evil spirits of winter and to encourage an early spring.

Carnival, as Fasching is known in many parts of the world, stems from the Latin words "Carne," meaning flesh or meat, and "vale," meaning farewell — or farewell to things of the flesh.

In the Middle Ages citizens living under the harsh conditions of feudalism were allowed to speak their minds and avoid prosecution by wearing a fool's cap. These outspoken, self-appointed jesters often presented their opinions in the form of

rhymes and nonsensical sayings. "Faseln," which means to talk nonsense, became the word Fasching. The three-pointed fool's cap is still worn by officials of the many Fasching organizations and their guests of honor. During the season clubs host "Sitzungen" (long-winded sit-down affairs) where speakers carry on the tradition of making satirical speeches about the state of the world using original rhymes and comic references.

Originally an outdoor affair, Fasching moved indoors in the early 1800s to escape the reproachful gaze of town officials. Because the many clubs organized by the guilds began at that time, the Fasching princes and princesses and many marching groups still wear uniforms of the early 19th century period.

Women get their chance to pay back their male colleagues for any presumed offenses on Weiberfastnacht (Feb. 3). In olden times that was the only day women were permitted to take part in the general frivolity of the season. Nowadays women observe the day by trimming the ties of their male coworkers and holding separate Fasching events.

Events such as masquerade balls and costume parties take place everywhere from local kindergartens to esteemed concert halls. Look for posters about local events in your German town or village. Community members in Hanau may want to head to the Community Activities Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne Feb. 8 to enjoy a **Fasching Party** which runs from 7 p.m. to midnight. Admission is free and prizes will be awarded for the best Fasching costume. A German buffet will be available in the American Star Restaurant from 7-9 p.m.

Friedberg community members might want to catch the spirit at the Spare Time Lanes on Ray Barracks Feb. 8 from 6-11 p.m. when they feature a **Mardi Gras Party**. Jazz music will set the mood. Call mil 324-3207 for details.

While Fasching bashes for both young and old are held throughout the season, the highlights are the many several

mile-long parades featuring floats with political commentary, marching bands, horses and candy in many cities. U.S. Army and Air Force bands frequently join other music makers at these parades.

Among the most famous are those held annually in **Mainz, Cologne, Düsseldorf and Bonn** on Rose Monday (Feb. 7). They are broadcast live on German television and start from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visitors are advised to join the USO, Outdoor Recreation or to use public transportation to get to the large parade cities as parking is usually extremely limited.

But one need not travel to the larger cities to enjoy the parade festivities. People in the 222nd Base Support Battalion might consider joining the fun at parades in **Baumholder and Birkenfeld** which start at 2:11 p.m. Feb. 7. **Idar-Oberstein** holds its parade Feb. 6.

Members of the 284th BSB communities also have several parades to choose from — **Giessen** Feb. 6 at 1:11 p.m., **Wetzlar** at 2:11 p.m. Feb. 5 or **Friedberg** Feb. 8 at 2:11 p.m.

Other parades worth checking out are **Büdingen** Feb. 6 at 1:11 a.m., **Gelnhausen** Feb. 5 at 1:11 p.m., **Hanau** Feb. 5 at 2:11 p.m., **Seligenstadt** Feb. 7 at 1:31 p.m., **Frankfurt** Feb. 6 at 1:31 p.m., **Wiesbaden** Feb. 6 at 1:11 p.m. and **Mainz** Feb. 7 at 11:11 a.m.

Stay safe at Fasching parades

- * Keep children from straying too close to the front of crowds along parade routes where they could be trampled. It can be dangerous near the front where youngsters may be pushed into the path of oncoming float wheels and horses' hooves.
- * Take the train or public transportation to parade cities as parking is nearly impossible near the parade routes. Don't mix drinking and driving.
- * Maintain your composure when someone shoves a bottle in your face — simply smile and decline graciously or pass it on.
- * Don't get offended when inebriated revelers insist on dancing with your wife, husband, friend, etc.
- * If wearing a costume or mask, use attire that doesn't impede walking or vision. Be sure to dress warmly.
- * Relax, have a good time and shout whatever the people next to you are yelling (most likely, "Helau") as the floats go by.